

August 11, 2000

# SPACE CENTER Roundup

VOL. 39, NO. 16 LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, HOUSTON, TEXAS

## JSC opens its gates for fifth annual Open House



In two weeks, August 26, the center again opens its gates to the community to see in person the places and people that make up the human space flight program. In addition to the many popular exhibits of years past, Open House 2000 will feature several new displays, many highlighting the international role of today's space program.

The International Space Station Program Office will debut a new exhibit in Bldg. 9 entitled "International Space Station – Passport to the Future." Visitors are provided with a 'passport' to be stamped as they visit "stamp stations" for each of the countries involved in the ISS. In the end they will have a nice souvenir and will have learned about the contributions from each international partner.

And for children, author Nancy Coffelt will be at Open House doing children's presentations and book signings in Bldg. 9. Her new book is the first in a series aimed at elementary school-level children and tells the story of the construction and purpose of the ISS. Star Station One, an outreach program implemented by The Boeing Company under a Space Act Agreement with NASA, is sponsoring the appearance of the Portland, Oregon, writer.

Another special exhibit will be the *Virtual Astronaut*, a new three-dimensional,

interactive software program in Bldg. 37 from Space and Life Sciences.

"This year's event promises to be bigger and better than preceding years," said Kelly Humphries, Open House 2000 chairperson. "We'll have a lot of the traditional favorites, as well as some new things to share with our friends and neighbors visiting from all across Texas, and beyond."

Visitors can walk through the International Space Station and Benefits from Space mobile exhibit trailers positioned across from Tram Stop C. They also can see space-age robotics in Bldg. 9, check out the latest space medicine technology in Bldg. 37 or try out space tools and touch materials used to make spacesuits in Bldg. 7.

Nineteen buildings on site will open to the public, as well as Sonny Carter Training Facility where visitors can view the Neutral Buoyancy Lab's world-famous pool, and Ellington Field, home of NASA's T-38 fleet, the Shuttle Training Aircraft and the Super Guppy.

Free tram service will be provided for visitors and maps will be available to provide guests with information about the various sites available for tours, some of which are open to the public only on this day. A complete list of the buildings



Saturday, August 26, 2000  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Free to the public**

Information Line  
281-244-5312

Web site  
<http://openhouse.jsc.nasa.gov>

See  
Ballunar Liftoff Festival  
information page 4  
Map and exhibit list, page 5

available for tours and their special exhibits can be found on page 5.

Organizers anticipate the largest crowd ever; however, they have ensured that safety remains the top priority during the

event. Twelve water stations will be set up around JSC – at every outdoor information booth – and most activities are indoors for a cool atmosphere, but organizers stress we should all take an active role in ensuring Open House is a safe event.

"We want all volunteers to take care to have a safe and healthy Open House," said Humphries. "Help watch out for our guests who might not be accustomed to our summer climate. And watch out for each other and ourselves. Don't over extend yourself – take relief when needed."

Although organizers say they are well on their way to enlisting the 400 volunteers needed, there are still opportunities to contribute to this important event. Those interested in volunteering should contact CC de la Garza at x31033 or register online at <http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/openhouse/Databases/>.

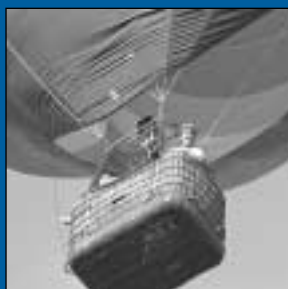
"I want to express my sincere thanks to all who have already signed up to make the day a success," added de la Garza.

The remaining training session will be held August 15 at 2 p.m. in Teague Auditorium. Organizers also wish to remind exhibitors that booths must be completed by the end of business Thursday, August 24, for a safety walk-through. ■



Engineers create  
Mars terrain  
on site.

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JSC hosts  
Texas' largest  
balloon festival.

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JSC's oldest  
employee going  
strong at 80.

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